

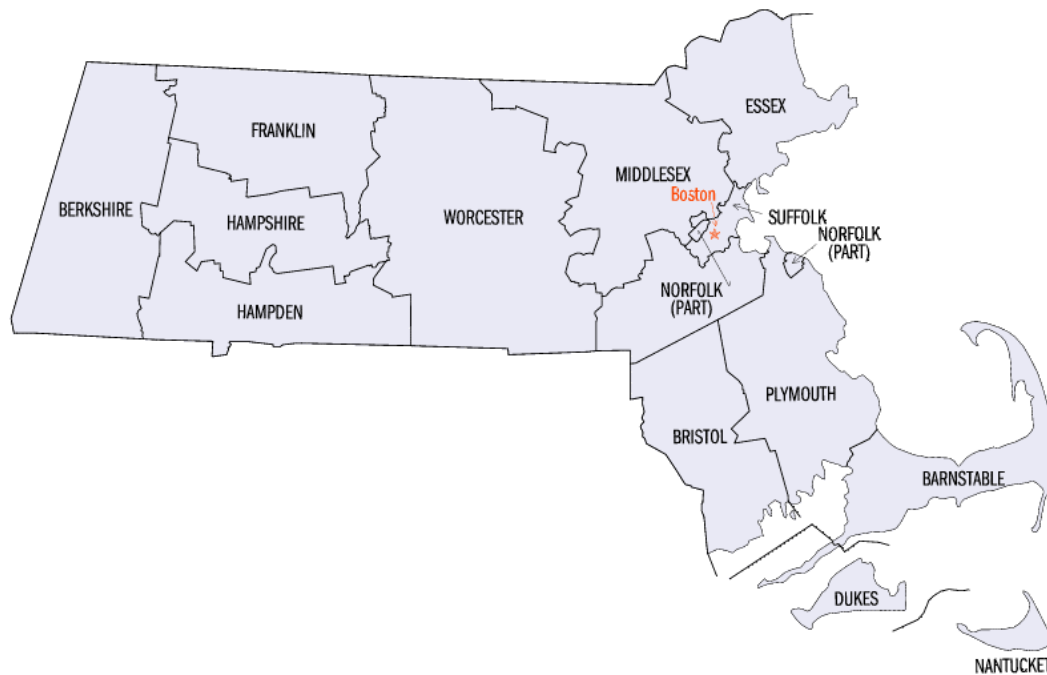
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Boston, Massachusetts

Profile of Drug Indicators

March 2003



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Boston, Massachusetts

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population (2000 Census): 589,141
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 49.5% white; 23.8% black/African American; 0.3% American Indian/Alaska Native; 7.5% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 1.4% other race; 3.1% two or more races; 14.4% Hispanic/Latino origin
- Boston is located in Suffolk County.

Politics

- Mayor: Thomas M. Menino²
- City Council (District): Paul Scapicchio (1); James Kelly (2); Maureen Feeney (3); Charles Yancey (4); Rob Consalvo (5); Josh Tobin (6); Chuck Turner (7); Michael Ross (8); Jerry McDermott (9); Feliz Arroyo (At-large); Maura Hennigan (At-large); Stephen Murphy (At-large); Michael Flaherty (At-large, President)³
- Commissioner of Boston Police Department: Paul F. Evans⁴
- Suffolk County Sheriff: Andrea Cabral⁵

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁶
Designated in 1999, the New England HIDTA is responsible for Suffolk and other counties in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, Maine, and New Hampshire. The purpose of this HIDTA is to identify, disrupt and dismantle the Colombian and Dominican drug trafficking and money laundering organizations that are operating in New England.
- Boston Against Drugs/Boston United for Prevention⁷
This initiative provides alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention activities for Boston residents and workers. Each participating neighborhood has a team of residents and program administrators that develops and implements prevention activities for individuals and families residing in the target area.
- New Generations⁸
New Generations is a juvenile delinquency prevention collaboration among public housing residents in Jamaica Plain and Roxbury. The purpose of this program is to prevent juvenile delinquency, including crime, truancy, substance abuse, and other socially destructive behaviors.
- Join Together⁹
A project of the Boston University School of Public Health, Join Together supports community-based efforts to reduce, prevent, and treat substance abuse across the nation.

Federal Funding

- SafeFutures¹⁰

Boston's SafeFutures Initiative is supported annually by a \$1.4 million grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The purpose of the initiative is to provide prevention, intervention, and treatment services to at-risk juveniles by creating effective links to neighborhood services and building collaborations among city and State agencies, community-based organizations, businesses, and youth/family establishments.
- Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees in Boston:¹¹
 - FY 2002 and FY 2001: no Boston grantees
 - FY 2000: \$97,178 was awarded to the South Boston Community Coalition to Prevent Substance Abuse
 - FY 1999: no Boston grantees
 - FY 1998: \$100,000 to the Boston Coalition Against Drugs and Violence
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed¹²

Boston has received Federal funding and official recognition as a Weed and Seed site.
- FY 2001 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Discretionary Funds received in Boston:¹³
 - Center for Mental Health Services
 - \$402,238 to the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department. Project period: 9/30/2001-9/29/2004.
 - \$584,958 to Boston University. Project period: 9/30/1998-8/31/2002.
 - \$400,000 to Latino Health Institute. Project period: 9/30/2001-9/29/2006.
 - \$350,000 to Boston Public Health Commission. Project period: 9/30/2000-8/31/2003.
 - \$1,699,325 to Brigham and Women's Hospital. Project period: 11/1/1999-8/31/2002.
 - \$1,499,700 to Communities of Care Program. Project period: 9/30/1999-8/31/2005.
 - \$877,688 to Boston Medical Center. Project period: 9/30/1998-8/31/2003.
 - \$599,764 to Boston Medical Center. Project period: 9/30/2001-9/29/2004.
 - \$50,000 to the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health. Project period: 9/30/2001-9/29/2002.
 - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention
 - \$100,000 to Action for Boston Community Development. Project period: 9/30/2001-9/29/2002.
 - \$249,000 to Women of Color AIDS Council, Inc. Project period: 9/30/1999-9/29/2002.
 - \$249,000 to Weatoc, Inc. Project period: 9/30/1999-9/29/2002.
 - \$647,111 to JSI Research and Training Institute. Project period: 9/30/1999-9/29/2002.
 - Center for Substance Abuse Treatment
 - \$377,616 to Latino Health Institute. Project period: 9/30/1999-9/29/2002.
 - \$244,972 to Boston University. Project period: 9/30/2001-9/29/2003.

- \$500,000 to Boston Public Health Commission. Project period: 9/30/2000-9/29/2003.
 - \$353,158 to Boston Medical Center Corporation. Project period: 9/30/1999-9/29/2002.
 - \$499,999 to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Project period: 9/30/1999-9/29/2002.
 - \$391,088 to Boston Public Health Commission. Project period: 9/30/1999-9/29/2002.
 - \$740,000 to Boston Public Health Commission. Project period: 9/30/1998-9/29/2003.
- Boston did not receive any funding through the FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant Program.¹⁴
 - Boston did not receive any methamphetamine funding in 2002 from the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.¹⁵
 - Boston did not receive any funding through the FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant.¹⁶

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- Pharmacy robberies involving OxyContin continue to increase in Boston.¹⁷
- From January to June 23, 2002, there were 255 offenses involving the possession of heroin or opiates in Boston. During full year 2001, there were 449 such offenses.¹⁸

Number of Drug Offenses, Boston, 2001 and January-June 23, 2002

Drug Type	Full Year 2001	Jan.-June 23, 2002
Trafficking heroin/opiates	18	13
Manuf., distrib., disp., or poss. with intent heroin/opiates	434	189
Possession heroin/opiates	449	255
Being present where heroin/opiates are found	2	0
Trafficking cocaine	63	32
Manuf., distrib., disp., or poss. with intent cocaine	826	478
Possession of cocaine or mixture containing cocaine	864	508
Manuf., distrib., disp., or poss. w/intent Class C substance	16	7
Possession of any Class C substance	30	14
Traff., manuf., dist., disp., or possess. with intent marijuana	56	0
Possession of marijuana or mixture containing marijuana	1,031	573
Distribution of marijuana or mixture containing marijuana	145	142
Manuf., distrib., disp., or poss. w/intent Class E drug	26	9
Possession of hypodermic syringe	55	23
Conspiracy to violate Controlled Substances Act	326	130
Using/possessing a false prescription	42	42
Total	4,383	2,415

- From January to November 2002, there were 52 homicides reported to the Boston Police Department.¹⁹ During full years 1999, 2000, and 2001, the number of Boston homicides reported was 31, 39, and 66, respectively.²⁰

Reported Part One Crimes, Boston, 1999-November 2002

Offense	Full Year 1999	Full Year 2000	Full Year 2001	Jan.-Nov. 2002
Homicide	31	39	66	52
Rape and attempted	337	325	361	345
Robbery and attempted	2,467	2,451	2,524	2,247
Aggravated assault	4,428	4,507	4,412	3,753
Burglary and attempted	3,414	4,051	4,222	3,482
Larceny and attempted	17,637	17,228	17,608	16,402
Vehicle theft and attempted	6,764	7,269	8,194	6,516

Drugs

➤ Cocaine

Massachusetts State Police report that Boston cocaine samples have been increasingly adulterated with caffeine, as well as standard adulterants such as procaine, lidocaine, benzocaine, and boric acid.²¹ Meat tenderizer is also used as an adulterant, causing severe skin abscesses. Two unusual routes of powder cocaine administration have been reported: local affluent college students sometimes slit vitamin E capsules, pack them densely with powder cocaine, and use them as suppositories; and both males and females sometimes rub powder cocaine into their genitalia, claiming that the anesthetic effects alter the sexual experience.²² Powder cocaine in Boston is 50-60% pure and costs \$60 per gram. Crack cocaine sells for \$50 per gram.²³

➤ Heroin

The availability of Colombian heroin has increased in Boston from the Fall of 2001 to the Spring of 2002. One dose (0.1 gram) of South American heroin sells for \$4 and is typically 80% pure. Many older heroin addicts who previously injected heroin and cocaine together in a speedball have changed practices to reduce the risk of vein collapse. The users now inject the heroin intramuscularly and, immediately after, smoke crack.²⁴ While whites in their thirties are the predominant heroin users in the city, several other user populations have emerged. These include: younger adult blue-collar whites who are switching to heroin after abusing prescription substances (mostly Percocet); teenage sons and younger brothers of oxycodone abusers who are going straight to heroin; and Hispanic users in their twenties.²⁵

➤ Marijuana

The age of marijuana users has decreased in Boston. The availability of most types of marijuana (hydroponic, BC Bud, local commercial, and sinsemilla) has increased in Boston from Fall 2001 to Spring 2002. One ounce of sinsemilla costs \$80-\$100 and one ounce of commercial marijuana sells for \$100-\$125.²⁶ Since anti-tobacco laws are being increasingly enforced in Boston, blunt use has decreased among adolescents who find it easier to buy joint rolling papers than to buy tobacco products. Marijuana is sometimes used as a mild substitute for heroin or to manage anger. Users also alternately use marijuana and powder cocaine to enhance poorer quality marijuana.²⁷

- **Methamphetamine**
The methamphetamine found in Boston typically costs \$70-\$200 per gram.²⁸
- **Club Drugs**
While white, middle-class individuals are the primary users of MDMA, sources indicate that its use is increasing among non-white city youth. It is widely available in Boston and typically sells for \$20-\$30/tablet.²⁹ GHB is also available in Boston.³⁰ Ketamine is being diverted from sources such as veterinary clinics and is being used at legitimate nightclubs in the Boston area.³¹ One dose (a capful) of GHB and ketamine each sell for \$5.³² A bottle (one-ounce) of ketamine costs \$50. Some users inject MDMA and ketamine intramuscularly.³³
- **Other Drugs**
Use of LSD, PCP, mushrooms, and mescaline among adolescents and young adults is not uncommon in Boston. LSD sells for \$5 per dose or \$300 for 100 doses.³⁴ The availability of diverted OxyContin has increased in Boston from Fall 2001 to Spring 2002. OxyContin typically sells for \$0.50-\$1 per milligram. Khat leaves are widely available in Boston.³⁵

Juveniles

- Over twenty percent of Boston high school students surveyed in 2001 reported being current users of marijuana.³⁶

Percent of High School Students Reporting Selected Drug Use, Boston, 2001

	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	38.0%	42.4%	40.1%
Current marijuana use	18.4	25.0	21.7
Lifetime cocaine use	2.6	4.5	3.6
Lifetime inhalant use	5.1	6.9	6.1
Lifetime heroin use	0.7	2.1	1.5
Lifetime methamphetamine use	2.0	4.7	3.5
Lifetime illegal steroid use	2.4	3.7	3.1
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	0.5	1.0	0.8

- Over forty-seven percent of 12th graders reported using marijuana at least once during their lifetimes.³⁷

Percent of High School Students Using Selected Drugs, by Grade, Boston, 2001

	9th	10th	11th	12th
Lifetime marijuana use	32.9%	38.6%	45.4%	47.1%
Current marijuana use	17.7	21.5	23.9	25.0
Lifetime cocaine use	3.7	2.7	4.0	3.9
Lifetime inhalant use	7.8	6.8	5.0	4.3
Lifetime heroin use	1.2	0.6	1.7	1.2
Lifetime methamphetamine use	3.6	2.3	4.3	3.2

Lifetime steroid use	3.3	2.6	3.3	3.2
Lifetime injection of illegal drug	0.8	0.7	1.3	0.5

Enforcement

- New England HIDTA initiatives in Boston:³⁸
 - New England HIDTA Financial Task Force: This task force, led by the U.S. Customs Service, is staffed with Customs and IRS Special Agents, as well as officers from the Massachusetts State Police and the Boston Police Department. The purpose of the task force is to identify, investigate, and prosecute large-scale drug money laundering organizations in the area.
 - Greater Boston Task Force: Led by the FBI, this task force targets mid- to upper-level criminal organizations in the Greater Boston area.
- As of October 31, 2001, there were 2,791 full-time law enforcement employees in Boston.³⁹

Trafficking and Seizures

- The Boston area serves as the primary drug distribution center in Massachusetts.⁴⁰
- Personal use quantities of hashish arrive in Boston on flights from the Netherlands and other source countries.⁴¹
- The majority of methamphetamine found in Boston is shipped from California.⁴²
- MDMA originates in Europe and reaches Boston via New York City.⁴³
- Seizures of substances such as LSD, PCP, mushrooms and mescaline increase in the spring/summertime with the increase in the number of outdoor rock concerts.⁴⁴
- Between Fall 2001 and Spring 2002, four methamphetamine box labs were seized in Boston.⁴⁵

Courts

- Drug Courts⁴⁶

As of January 8, 2003, there were two drug courts in Boston that had recently been implemented. One of the drug courts is in South Boston and the other is in East Boston. There are no additional drug courts in existence or being planned in the city.

Corrections

- During 2000, there were 2,700 participants in Narcotics Anonymous at the Suffolk County House of Correction.⁴⁷

Number of Substance Abuse Program Participants, House of Correction, 2000

Program	Number of Participants
Alanon	200
Alcoholics Anonymous	3,500
Latino Recovery	160
Narcotics Anonymous	2,700
Recovery Meeting/Twelve-Step Recovery	720
Spiritual Recovery	276

Recovery Film Workshop	600
Total program participants	8,156

- Approximately 157 detainees at the Suffolk County Jail were started on alcohol detoxification and 370 detainees were started on drug detoxification protocols during 2001.⁴⁸
- In 2000, there were 2,876 participants in the Suffolk County Jail's Twelve-Step Recovery program.⁴⁹

Number of Substance Abuse Program Participants, Suffolk County Jail, 2000

Program	Number of Participants
Alcoholics Anonymous	6,648
Self Help	3,649
Big Book	720
Latino Recovery	481
Narcotics Anonymous	1,440
Relapse Prevention	1,068
Twelve-Step Recovery	2,876
Graduates of Treatment Unit	40
Breaking the Cycle	200
Total program participants	17,122

Consequences of Use

- Preliminary data indicate that there were 8,452 drug abuse episodes reported to the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) by emergency departments (ED) in Boston from January to June 2002.⁵⁰
- During full year 2001, there were 16,853 drug abuse episodes reported to DAWN by ED in Boston.⁵¹

Number of ED Drug Mentions, Selected Drugs, Boston, 1998-June 2002*

Drug Type	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002*
Alcohol-in-combination	5,130	4,439	4,976	5,818	2,616
Cocaine	4,526	3,560	4,099	4,933	2,524
Heroin	2,738	2,861	3,867	4,358	2,155
Marijuana	2,907	1,960	2,945	3,423	1,741
Amphetamines	180	216	369	392	213
Methamphetamine	6	12	14	14	7
MDMA (Ecstasy)	39	87	125	140	37
Ketamine	12	10	23	10	2
LSD	53	44	41	33	--
PCP	21	7	11	23	19
Miscellaneous hallucinogens	18	39	25	31	28
GHB	6	26	26	28	7
Rohypnol	0	0	0	0	0
Inhalants	1	--	13	0	--

Total ED drug abuse episodes	13,657	11,669	14,902	16,853	8,452
Total ED drug mentions	24,876	21,219	25,863	29,795	15,114

* 2002 data are preliminary and only for January to June

- During 2001, there were 374 drug-related deaths reported to DAWN by Medical Examiners (ME) in the Boston metropolitan area (includes Suffolk and its surrounding counties).⁵²

Number of Drug Abuse Deaths and Drug Mentions, Boston Metro. Area, 1997-2001

Drug Type	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Alcohol-in-combination	100	143	116	115	117
Cocaine	107	145	117	118	132
Heroin/morphine	171	186	168	183	195
Marijuana	1	1	--	4	8
Amphetamines	2	1	--	--	5
Methamphetamine	2	--	10	--	1
Club drugs	--	--	--	1	6
Hallucinogens	--	--	--	1	--
Inhalants	5	6	5	--	--
Narcotic analgesics	97	108	74	118	206
Other analgesics	37	24	13	12	25
Benzodiazepines	26	51	15	25	136
Antidepressants	66	110	66	54	44
All other substances	70	72	26	36	45
Total drug deaths	302	368	344	343	374
Total drug mentions	684	847	610	667	920

- In Suffolk County during 2001, there were 117 drug abuse deaths reported to DAWN.⁵³

Number of Drug Abuse Deaths and Drug Mentions, Suffolk County, 1997-2001

Drug Type	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Alcohol-in-combination	25	25	33	37	36
Cocaine	33	31	31	37	48
Heroin/morphine	37	40	48	51	68
Marijuana	--	--	--	1	2
Amphetamine					1
Methamphetamine	--	--	5	--	1
Club drugs	--	--	--	--	2
Hallucinogens	--	--	--	--	--
Inhalants	2	2	2	--	--
Narcotic analgesics	23	23	21	23	57
Other analgesics	9	2	4	4	8
Benzodiazepines	6	8	5	7	49
Antidepressants	14	14	16	11	5

All other substances	17	17	2	7	4
Total drug deaths	74	82	100	94	117
Total drug mentions	166	162	167	178	281

- According to public health and law enforcement officials in Boston, 50% of the deaths of homeless people in 2001 were due to heroin overdoses.⁵⁴
- Recent increases in heroin overdose mortalities in Boston are related to poly-drug abuse, particularly involving clonazepam (Klonopin).⁵⁵

Treatment

- According to the *Pulse Check* treatment source, their treatment program typically turns away 25 potential clients and treatment requests from jails per week.⁵⁶
- During 2000, there were 25,671 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in Boston.⁵⁷

Number of Admissions to Treatment, by Primary Drug of Abuse, Boston, 2000

Drug Type	Number of Admissions
Alcohol only	6,025
Alcohol with secondary drug	5,405
Cocaine/crack	2,624
Heroin	9,839
Marijuana	1,162
Stimulants	13
Other	603
Total	25,671

Sources

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³ Boston City Council Web site: <http://www.cityofboston.gov/citycouncil/default.asp>

⁴ Boston Police Department Web site: <http://www.cityofboston.gov/police/>

⁵ Suffolk County Sheriff Web site: <http://www.scsdma.org/>

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¹³ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, FY 2001 Discretionary Funds: <http://www.samhsa.gov/funding/content/states01/State.htm>

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<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/DrugCourts/02DCgrants.htm>

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²⁰ Boston Police Department, *Reported Part One Crime in the City of Boston, December 2001*:

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<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/drugfact/pulsechk/2001/index.html>

²³ Office of National Drug Control Policy, *Pulse Check: Trends in Drug Abuse, January-June 2002 Reporting Period*, November 2002:

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²⁵ Office of National Drug Control Policy, *Pulse Check: Trends in Drug Abuse, July-December 2001 Reporting Period*, April 2002:

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